

ROCK CON SEÑOR LUMPO-GRANDE

Dateline: Mexico City. The inforaging sun beats down on this reporter's delicately dappled epidermis only slightly less gruelingly than this deadline. Where does one begin to sort out the tangled web of social discourse that must surround the very idea of public transport? As with life, I suppose I must just push my generous frame on board and hope for a seat with a good view. It seems to me that a two-pronged analysis of BusCulture is in order, namely: 1 The bus as portrayed in Popular Culture & 2 The Culture of Buses and to Those Indigenious to Buses and to Those Who Ride Them. Fortunately or no, the first is dispensed with easily enough, although enough subtleties occur to me to formulate some tentative probes as our Northern comrade Senior McCluhan was wont to call them. The data is superficial, available and digestible prima facie, as can be said of most 'cultures', the frozen yogurt of the mind: Strawberry or Vanilla? The latter question is of another order altogether, one which I will attempt to touch on briefly in this issue, but which I fully expect to occupy most of my attention for the duration of this journal's existence. My 900 page outline for a proposed overview of this subject is on view at the Carnitas del Balgrafico branch of the Mexico City Public Library Tuesdays and Wednesdays During regular library hours until the end of September. But Let's Get Down To Business!

The ephemeral nature of popular culture seems to inspire a kind of fanatical devotion among a class of middle class male bourgeoisie arrested at some retentive adolescent phase of development. This not being my forte, the following summary of bus data from popular culture is by no means exhaustive (no pun intended) nor entirely accurate in some cases. It is meant to be an impression, off the top of my head from which we will withhold generalizing analyses for the time being, in favor of a more picaresque and less critical overview. Let Us Rock.

MY TOP TEN BUS SONGS

10. "A DAY IN THE LIFE" - The Beatles "grabbed my hat, made the bus in seconds flat" So what?
9. "AMERICA" - Simon & Garfunkle "I'm empty and aching and I don't know why" Gee it couldn't be from sitting on a Greyhound for three days or anything, could it?
8. "MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR" - The Beatles. More on this later.
7. "BUS RIDER" - The Guess Who. Contempt for the working man, successfully detoured by audio collage band Mannlicher Carcano at their recent appearance at U.C. San Diego's CRCA. Way to go, fellas!
6. "THE WHEELS ON THE BUS" - Jonathan Richman & the Modern Lovers. Typically faux-naive version of the schoolbus classic, a semi-rouser.
5. "IF YOU MISS ME AT THE BACK OF THE BUS" - Pete Seeger. Another semi-rouser with redeeming social and political importance. The importance of the



and their center of operation is strictly for their own amusement, face of all human suffering, lady becomes aware of an entire schizoidronic episode where this autobiographical account of a bus ride and it's a piece of called OPERATORS. By this crazy lady? What's recommended thing though is this second. Ho hum. One highly PARTIRIDGE FAMILY. TV PBS kind of stuff. "THE BUSES" - English comedy published in Heavy Metal. NO something that used to be Goldberger. "THE BUS" - "THE LONG WALK HOME" - "IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT" - "THE BIG BUS" - Movie: An airport parody, disaster on the world's first atomic powered bus. "The bus" is a disaster on the of buscultural effluvia. away the remaining accumulations of psychodelic era. More on this later. First, though, let's look at the communal heroic aspirations of the bus. Ken Kesey and took on a peculiar designation as a vehicle for the schoolbus that originated with Ken Kesey. The "psychodelic" is to come to play in this, the latter half of the twentieth century, is one of the central buschepes FURTHER BUSCULTURE. Minneapolis, it has to be good! Replacements. "If it's from ME ON THE BUS". The "A DAY IN THE LIFE KISS" pop song. This bumps out rhythms incorporated in a top 10 Adam & the Ants style African shipped my mind? First use of The Who. How could this have Gordon Haines. "MAGIC BUS" - Last Minute Contributions by actually gets there. "BUS STOP" - The Hollies Hep And aren't we all in favor of that? the discoverer. I mean it ROCKS. all: the subtext, the preter, and Shuffie Demons. This one has it. "SPANDINA BUS" - The Huxley. Dig it. masterpiece, better than Orwell or American Beast. Mindboggling to the heart of the song, but this metaphorical Firstgen Theatre. Not strictly a BOZOS ON THE BUS". The "I THINK WE'RE ALL bus light" truly. "A man who has seen the bus is the place where I found LANE". The jazz butcher "The GROOVIN' IN THE BUS through! School is just a junior or we're all KISS Kross. A great song with can not be understated. "I MISSED THE BUS" - bus in the civil rights movement

2.0
JULY/JUNE, 1993
Power to the Peoplemover
Erik Knutzen
Michael Waterman
Eric Lyon
Charles Kronengold
Altair-Five
(& featuring) Señor Lumpo-Grande
All Buses On This Route Are Lift Equipped
BUS CULTURE
An Operator in the Metropolitan Transit System

Greyhound Bus Lines. Rather than see a shrink, the woman decides to take a cross-country journey on the Greyhounds. I cannot emphasize the importance of your locating and reading this book sooner the better!

I am sure there are many more examples of the use of the bus in popular culture, many of them highly salutary no doubt. Nonetheless, culture IS culture and the way it must pervert itself in order to prosper in its forms. Ken Kesey was not intending to create a new cultural icon when he and his Merry Prankster's set out across the country in their legendary daylo bus 'Further', although he is reported as having said "Print is an outmoded and archaic form of expression. From now on everyone will express themselves only in terms of buses." This of course did not turn out to be the case, but it does serve to indicate the high moral tone of a group of buscultural activists commonly thought to be nothing more than a motley collection of malodorous freeloaders on a tripped out joyride to Nowheresville. Even if Western Culture had shifted gears and started cruising the Bus Lane, busculture would have been absorbed, masticated and spewed out like some kind of frozen yogurt of the mind: Strawberry or Vanilla?

Just look at how Kesey's legend was absorbed and diminished for popular consumption: Word travels to England, where the newly acid-bathed pop scene turns it into The Who's "Magic Bus" and the Beatles' "Magical Mystery Tour" film and soundtrack. Pleasing enough artifacts, but it's clear that the Beatles were not capable of the kind of anarchic explorations of alternative performer/audience relationships at the core of the Kesey/Prankster/acid test aesthetic. It is true that the Beatles attempted to inject an egalitarian approach to the filmmaking process, resulting in a rather amateurish technical veneer of the finished work, but the richest entertainers on the planet saying "Look, I'm paying you scale so you'll bloody well do it my way and be spontaneous" is hardly the makings of a modernist milestone. Reports agree that the filming was an unpleasant experience all around. Nonetheless, the finished product did manage to shake up the bourgeoisie and retain some creative ambiguity. Bitchy clothes-horse Tom Wolfe put the true final nail in the coffin with his typically self absorbed 'Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test' book which

Look
Due to late breaking news items of interest to the People the editors were unable to include "Bus Riders: Part II" by Susan Hammon in next month's issue. Apologetic collective inconvenience. The Peoplemover Collective. Sizes for any inconvenience.

the superreal-----the real-----the unreal
(up in your face) (ordinary life) (beyond perception)

ON-BOYS

83
FO

does not have the (desired) effect of grounding the discussion into the realm of the uncanny. The figure of Pinocchio as his project, easily takes on a mythic quality. With no what more complex example, in at this same time must take him as de-romanticized descriptions of "winning bid," and in the direction of the unreal in its suggestion of this charmed life. As you can imagine, whenever I'm on a Southbound Club of these guys, I have to assume that he's won big. I want to attempt to make sense of competing realities.

[illegible]

MR. SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE
SALLY

The function of naming people and things, and of lists generally, is to establish order, for better or worse to control them. What this guy was trying to do was to rise above such situation by showing him the order in things, or more precisely, how order can be come out of control. His friend seemed to be getting it, as the interchangeable doubling in his answer showed and then I got fucked.

FBI

by
Charles
Kronengold

Transit System, System, System, System

BUS CULTURE

ORGANIZE

DO UNUSUAL THINGS

THE MINISTER ALTAIR-FIVE is on serious suburbanite with a lot of time to burn - "a thought stylist on the cutting edge of nothing."